

Case of East Berlin		23 December 1961
DALL/GA/ABER/CABATON		RE: EAST-GERMANY, 2-1961
Need for Letter Drops to Support BOB Operations		MAILED FOR MAILING
See para 1		NO RECORDING REQUIRED
		XX
		MOVING OUT IN JANUARY
		BY COLLECTOR AS PER PLAN

CABATON OK

1. The closing of the Berlin sector border on 13 August 1961 has had the effect of moving East Berlin and East Germany much closer to becoming the isolated areas that Hungary, Poland, and other Satellite countries are today. As the regime develops additional measures to regulate intercourse between the East and the West, operations against East Berlin and East Germany will be continued to increase to are those against any denied area and we will be required to do so if we are able to maintain the number of assets now in place. The closing of the border line, there are 17 agents in East Berlin and East Germany. The closing of the border line is reported to be a serious threat to the survival of the East German regime. To maintain, or if possible, and maintain the East German regime with these people for as long as they are denied access to the West. It is expected that the accommodation address will have to serve as a primary line between the regime and ourselves.

2. Immediately after the sector border closed, we began an all-out effort to prevent West Berlin accommodation addresses to supplement those on hand and to replace addresses compromised or considered insecure because they had been exposed to more than one agent residing in the East. To date, more than twenty West Berliners have been developed as letter drops. Some of these individuals will serve at various levels of processing, but the majority has been recruited, recruited, and now is receiving agent mail. We intend to continue the recruitment of field and mail two West Berlin accommodation addresses are required for each agent in East Berlin or East Germany.

3. However, a letter drop in West Berlin cannot be realistically considered as another part of any communications plan with an agent in either East Berlin or East Germany, although it is one indication to use such drops for as long as they are available. Postal authorities in the East can subject mail destined for West Berlin to particularly strict censorship and control and the likelihood that more extensive measures will be employed becomes more probable each day as the regime becomes more confident of its ability to control the populace. East German measures have been discouraged from writing to the West for several months and controls have been initiated recently which make the exchange of packages almost impossible. The strict control of letters, particularly those for West Berlin, may well be the last step to be taken by the regime.

4. The uncertain future of the Allied status in West Berlin also precludes any attempt of reliance on the continued use of West Berlin addresses. If we were to use only letter drops in West Berlin, a quick settlement of the Berlin crisis

APPROVED: 1

Distribution:

1 - TOB  
1 - ODS/O

*Further briefing*  
F. CABATON D+P

INSTRUCTIONS	CLASSIFICATION	DATE
NYBAT/SECRET		
CONTINUED		

5. Past experience has shown that areas such as Bern, Rome, Paris, Istanbul, etc., are able to provide only a very few accommodation addresses, and most of these are acquired from the host-country service, a practice we consider generally insecure. A good number of drops in these areas have not functioned well, if at all. Whether the problem is in the type of drop acquired or the ability of postal authorities in the East to censor the comparatively small amount of mail to such areas has never been determined. Whatever the answer may be, we have little hope that the majority of these drops will work well in an emergency.

6. The heavy volume of letter-type mail for West Germany which is posted daily in East Berlin and East Germany should prove, we believe, any successful accommodation program. For this reason, we have not to formal need drop in East Berlin and East Germany which is letter-type accommodation address in West Germany. Of the 17 agents with whom contact is desired, twenty are working on accommodation addresses in either West Germany or a Western European country which is well known to the German intelligence. Thirty-seven already have an alternate address. Allowing for a small reserve of West German addresses, to be placed should the first drop be compromised or unable to function, we have a goodly number of fifty letter drops in West Germany during the next six months. At this time, we are not in a position of having alternate drops for all agents who should have them, but we urgently need fifteen such drops, which can and should be issued almost immediately. These addresses must not be in the Frankfurt area. Drops in the Munich, Dusseldorf, and Stuttgart areas, which are reachable and can be serviced quickly, would be completely acceptable. (Drops in the Hamburg area also can be used and a brief dispatch concerning our needs is being prepared for HOB.)

7. The past generosity of Frankfurt Operations Base in providing accommodation addresses for the exclusive use of our agents is greatly appreciated. We fully realize that this request for fifty new addresses will place a heavy burden on FOB operations officers. However, we have no choice in the matter if the operations we now have are to be productive for any length of time. For obvious reasons of efficiency and management, we cannot acquire West German addresses ourselves, but we can and will divert as much BOB-agent mail from CABATON addresses to letter drops in West Berlin, knowing that the events of recent months have caused FOB officers to devote much time and effort to the servicing of CABATON assets assigned to us. Your comments on FOB's ability to provide fifteen new addresses immediately and thirty-five additional addresses during the next six months will be greatly appreciated.